

Hatchery Scientific Review Group

Pacific Salmon Hatchery Reform

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HSRG - Washington

Andy Appleby, Co-Chair

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Stephen Smith

January 31, 2012

Frances G. Charles, Chairperson
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
2851 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363

Mr. Jim Scott, Assistant Director
State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Ms. Charles and Mr. Scott,

The Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) is pleased to submit our report reviewing the Elwha River Fish Restoration Plan and accompanying Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) as requested in your letter dated December 6, 2011. Following your request, the report includes a review of existing and planned hatchery programs in light of the Co-Manager's established goals and proposed actions to achieve those goals, specifically, *"assessing the risk and benefits of the programs, evaluate the likelihood that the programs will achieve the stated goals and identify any potential program modifications that would improve the likelihood of achieving our goals."* After discussion with the Co-managers on January 13, 2012 (see below), the HSRG determined to restrict our review to the use of hatcheries to aid in the restoration of the Elwha (conservation objective). Therefore, the best use of hatcheries to achieve any harvest related goals was not directly addressed.

This review began with a four day meeting of the HSRG in Port Angeles, WA from December 19-22, 2011. The meeting included approximately ½ day touring hatchery facilities and the Elwha dam removal site; 1 and ½ days of presentations and discussions with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Olympic National Park, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Geological Survey and other knowledgeable parties; and two days of deliberations and discussions by the HSRG. On January 13, 2012 the HSRG met with Co-managers to verify our understanding of the facts contained in the Plan/HGMPs and share draft elements of our review. This meeting was followed by a two day HSRG meeting on January 16-17, 2012 to review and edit the draft

report. The full membership participated in all or a significant part of this review along with Jim Lichatowich, a special consultant asked to participate by the HSRG.

Unfortunately, due to the limited time line for this project, the HSRG could not provide more specific details relating to some elements of our review (decision triggers) nor could we provide a fully developed Adaptive Management or Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. We would be happy to assist in these efforts should you desire.

We hope you find this information satisfactory. Please direct any questions or follow-up requests to the HSRG Co-Chairs.

Sincerely,



Peter Paquet Ph.D.
HSRG Co-Chair



Andy Appleby
HSRG Co-Chair

Attachments:

Review of the Elwha River Fish Restoration Plan and Accompanying HGMPs

CC: Heather Bartlett, Hatchery Division Manager, WDFW
Ken Berg, USFWS
Congressman Norm Dicks
Mike Grossmann, Senior Counsel, Washington State Office of Attorney General
Doug Morrill, Natural Resource Director, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Will Stelle, NMFS
Steve Suagee, General Counsel, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Ron Warren, Region 6 Fish Program Manager, WDFW
Brian Winter, National Park Service